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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 306255
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DRAFTED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ:CHG
APPROVED BY ,. - MR HABIB
EA - MR HUMMEL
EA/P - MR SMITH
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH
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O 172240Z DEC 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 306255

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, PINT, KS, US

SUBJECT: KOREAN SCANDAL STORY

REF: SEOUL 9987

1. EMBASSY SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT ISSUE NEWS RELEASE OR STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO ANY PUBLICIZING IN ROK MEDIA OF INVESTIGATIONS OR RELATED DEVELOPMENTS.

2. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM LOCAL NEWSMEN, FOREIGN OR KOREAN, EMBASSY SHOULD RESPOND ALONG LINES CONTAINED IN GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DEPT SPOKESMAN. BASICALLY, EMBASSY SHOULD DECLINE TO COMMENT ON ALLEGATIONS OF IM-PROPER BEHAVIOR ON PART OF PAK TONG-SUN, OTHER KOREANS OR AMERICAN CITIZENS, NOTING THAT IT CANNOT COMMENT ON

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MATTERS WHICH ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION. THERE SHOULD, OF COURSE,BE NO COMMENT ON BLUE HOUSE BUGGING ALLEGATIONS ON GROUNDS WE DO NOT PUBLICLY DISCUSS ALLEGATIONS OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY ARE TRUE OR FALSE. IF QUESTIONED ON KIM SANG-KUN CASE, EMBASSY SPOKESMAN SHOULD SAY ONLY THAT HE HAS VOLUNTARILY

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ASKED TO BE PERMITTED TO STAY IN THE U.S. FOR PERSONAL REASONS.

3. IF ASKED ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS ON US-KOREAN RELATIONS, EMBASSY SHOULD NOTE THAT THEY HAVE NOT ALTERED OUR SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ROK OR OUR DESIRE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE, CONSTRUCTIVE AND FRIENDLY TIES WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE KOREAN PEOPLE.

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